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This newsletter is provided by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for child care facilities participating in the 5-Star Environmental Recognition Program. This newsletter provides updates on environmental issues affecting children. Please feel free to use these articles in your own newsletters. We encourage you to post this in areas where parents will have access to it.

If you have any questions or comments about the information included here, please contact Karen Teliha at 800-988-7901.

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Seasonal Furnace Inspections Can Prevent CO Poisonings

As the weather turns colder throughout much of the country, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) urges consumers to have a professional inspection of all fuel-burning appliances - including furnaces, stoves, fireplaces, clothes dryers, water heaters and space heaters - to detect deadly carbon monoxide (CO) leaks.

These appliances burn fuels - typically gas, both natural and liquefied petroleum; kerosene; oil; coal; and wood. Under certain conditions, these appliances can produce deadly CO. However, with proper installation and maintenance, they are safe to use. An annual inspection and service is the first line of defense against this silent killer.

CO is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning any fuel. The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to flu, and include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness. Exposure to high levels of CO can cause death.

"Each year, CO poisoning associated with using fuel-burning appliances kills about 200 people," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "Having this inspection performed could prevent a terrible tragedy."

CPSC recommends that the yearly professional inspection include checking chimneys, flues and vents for leakage and blockage by debris. Birds, insects and other animals sometimes nest in vents and block exhaust gases, causing the gases to enter the home. Leakage through cracks or holes could cause black stains on the outside of the chimney or flue. These stains and strange smells can mean that pollutants are leaking into the house. In addition, have all vents to furnaces, water heaters, boilers and other fuel-burning appliances checked to make sure they are not loose or disconnected.

Have your appliances inspected for gas leaks and adequate ventilation. A supply of fresh air is important to help carry pollutants up the chimney, stovepipe or flue, and is necessary for the complete combustion of any fuel. Never block ventilation air openings. Also, make sure the appliance is operating on the fuel that it is designed to use. An appliance must be modified by a professional to burn propane.

CPSC recommends that every home should have at least one CO alarm.

Going to the NAEYC Conference?.....

We'll be there too! Stop by the IDEM booth and say hi! Remind us that you're a 5-star participant and get a FREE travel coffee mug!

The Cleaning Supplies Closet

A well-planned cleaning supplies closet can go a long way in getting the job done while helping to ensure safety in your home or child care setting. In addition to your cleaners and disinfectants, stock your closet with these items:



- A prominent display of the following telephone numbers:
 - Local Poison Control Center (can be found in local phone directory)
 - Toll free 800 numbers from product labels (list product and company names)
- "DOs and DONT's for Accident Prevention" Review it often, and make sure others who share the cleaning tasks do, too.
- Paper towels or other disposable wipes
- Rubber gloves to protect your hands
- Plastic bucket
- Measuring cups for measuring bleaches, disinfectant or other dilutable products

*Remember to carefully rinse buckets and measuring cups out before and after mixing different chemicals to avoid dangerous chemical reactions.



(text provided by the Soap and Detergent Association, <http://www.cleaning101.com/health/safe/closet.html>)

How should household products be stored?

Here are several "rules" to follow:

1. Follow the storage instructions on the product label.
2. Store products out of reach of children and pets. Keep all harmful household products locked in a cabinet, a utility area with lots of ventilation or air flow or in a garden shed.
3. Store flammable products outside your living area and far away from places where they could catch fire. Keep flammable products away from portable heaters, electric baseboard heaters, around furnaces and outdoor grills.
4. Never store pesticides or other household products in cabinets where food is stored, or near food intended for people or animals. Never store pesticides where you keep medicines. (Childcare facilities should never have pesticides stored at their facilities)
5. Always store household products in their original containers so that you can read the label for directions.

Remind parents to never transfer pesticides or other household products to soft drink bottles, milk jugs or other food containers. Children, or even adults, may mistake them for something to eat or drink.



(Text provided by EPA)

Poison Prevention Week



National Poison Prevention Week is March 17-23, 2002. Start planning now and call your Poison Control Center to order free and low cost items to send home with the children.

Did you Know?

- ** Sixty percent of all poisonings occur to children under the age of six.
 - **Many poisonings occur when the daily household routine has been disrupted. An example of this would be having a babysitter.
 - **The most common products involved in poisonings are drugs (prescription and over-the- counter), household and chemical products, plants and cosmetics.
 - **Be aware that childproof caps are not really **CHILD PROOF**. They are only child resistant and if a child is given enough time they will open the container.
-

Every 30 seconds a child is poisoned in the United States.

Some Teaching Ideas from the Oregon Poison Control Center

Use Mr. Yuk tickers on poisonous products. Teach children that Mr. Yuk means 'No' and if they do not see a Mr. Yuk sticker they need to ask an adult.

Each time a poisonous item is brought into the house/classroom place a Mr. Yuk sticker on it and talk about it in front of the children. Really draw attention to what you are doing with that poisonous product, i.e. "This soap is a poison. It needs a Mr. Yuk sticker. Watch me put this container of poison in a high place so none of you can be hurt."

Use a flannel board and place pictures of poisonous and non-poisonous substances on opposite sides of the board.

Discussion Ideas

What is a poison? A poison can hurt grown-ups, children and pets. A poison is a good substance used in a bad way.

Are there any poisons in you home? In my home I found _____.

Why should poison be kept in original containers?

Stress the correct, or safe use of products, i.e. shampoo is good for hair, not the stomach. Gasoline is good for cars, but it is not good for kids. Plants and flowers are pretty to look at but can be poisonous if eaten.

Free Mr. Yuk Stickers

You can order up to 50 Mr. Yuk stickers free of charge. Send e-mail to mshowalt@clarian.com or call us at (317) 962-2335 to place your order.



READ THE LABEL: Deciphering "Signal Words"

A "signal word" is the first and largest word in the Precautionary Statement on the labels of Household Cleaners. Labels use signal words to show how toxic or hazardous a product can be. There are three different signal words: Caution, Warning, and Danger.

CAUTION or WARNING

A mild warning -- and the most commonly used for cleaning products. These two terms mean that the product is not likely to produce permanent damage as a result of exposure, if appropriate first aid is given. The eye or skin could become inflamed, or adverse effects such as dizziness or stomach upset could occur if the product is swallowed. Warning is used to identify products that can easily catch on fire.

Many laundry and automatic dishwashing detergents, disinfectants and all-purpose cleaners fall into this category. Some food chemicals, such as vinegar, would also fall into this category if they were sold as cleaning products and required human safety labels.



DANGER

Indicates that greater precaution should be taken. Accidental exposure of the eye or skin to the undiluted product could produce tissue damage; swallowing the undiluted product could produce consequences such as damage to the mouth, throat and stomach; or the material could ignite if exposed to an open flame.

This warning is most often seen on specialty products intended for tough jobs, such as cleaning the oven or opening clogged drains. Danger is also used on products that could explode if they get hot.

POISON

Not classified as a signal word under the Act. However, it is the strongest indication of hazard, and is rarely used on household cleaning products.

It may be found on household lye; some car care items, such as antifreeze; or on insecticides and rodenticides.



(text provided by the Soap and Detergent Association, <http://www.cleaning101.com/health/safe/signal.html> and the Environmental Protection Agency)

Turning Trash to Treasure: Winter Craft Ideas

For the birds....

Materials Needed:

Cardboard tube (toilet paper or paper towel roll) or pine cones
String or ribbon
Peanut Butter
Birdseed

Activity:

1. Punch four evenly spaced holes approximately one inch from one end of the cardboard tub. Cut two pieces of string or ribbon and thread them through the holes (one piece through the north to the south hole and one piece through the east to the west hole). Gather the four ends together. Make the ends even and tie them together.
2. Cover the tube with peanut butter and then roll it in the birdseed.
3. Hang the tube outside during the winter and watch which birds it attracts.

Materials Needed:

String
Cheerios

Activity:

1. This is an easy one! Let the kids string the Cheerios, tie the stings to branches on a nearby tree and enjoy the birds!

Materials Needed:

Stale bread (from local grocery)
Cookie cutters
Yarn

Activity:

1. Use the cookie cutters to cut shapes from the stale bread.
2. Let the shapes sit out overnight and dry out.
3. Hang them outside for the birds!

Materials Needed:

Onion bags, potato bags, etc.
Yarn, cotton, other soft scraps bird might use to build their nests

Activity:

1. Let the children stuff the bags with the variety of items, hang outside for the birds to enjoy.
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Materials Needed:

2 toilet paper tubes per child
Glue
Plastic wrap
Rubber bands

Activity:

1. Now that you're attracting birds, the children need to make binoculars to watch them! Wrap plastic wrap around one end of each toilet paper tube, use rubber bands to hold the wrap on each tube. Glue the tubes together (be sure the plastic wrap is on the same end!). Now they're ready to be bird watchers.

When do I need to obtain a Material Safety Data Sheet?

As an employer, it is your responsibility to inform employees of potential hazardous chemicals they may be exposed in the workplace. At a childcare facility, the first chemical that comes to everyone's mind is....bleach. You should obtain a material safety data sheet (MSDS) for bleach. Enclosed with this newsletter is a generic Bleach MSDS but it is highly recommended you call the manufacture of the bleach product you use and obtain the MSDS for that particular product.

But what about all those other materials teachers are exposed to: white out, glue, crayons, chalk, markers, paint, disinfectants, soap, and so on. The 5-Star program recommends that you obtain manufacturers' MSDS for any cleaning substances you use including laundry detergent, ammonia, toilet bowl cleaner, window cleaner, disinfectants, floor wax, carpet cleaners, etc. What happens if you hire a cleaning company to clean your facility? This company should have copies of MSDSs of all the materials they use. You should go ahead and receive copies of these MSDSs for two reasons: 1. the possibility that the employees or children could become exposed to the chemical by accident, and 2. you need to know what they're using at your facility. There may be certain products that should not be used around children.

Now on to the tougher items, things that the children may even be playing with such as crayons, markers, glue, paint, soap, etc. These items are normally considered "consumer products" and can be exempt from requiring an MSDS even when they're used in the workplace as long as:

1. they are used for the purpose intended by the manufacturer of the product and,
2. the use results in a duration and frequency of exposure which is not greater than the range of exposures that could reasonably be experienced by consumers when used for the purpose intended.

Do you melt old crayons for art projects? Heating a crayon is not the intended purpose of this product. When you do this, you could be releasing

hazardous fumes. You should obtain a MSDS so you know what teachers and children may be exposed to.

What about Pesticides?

Remember, you should NEVER store pesticides at the childcare. But, if you do hire someone to apply pesticides (remember to ask them to bait and not spray), you should ask for copies of MSDSs for the pesticides they may use. At the very least, they should give you the names of the products.

Mercury Spill Kits

Many of you purchased Mercury Spill Kits as a result of the 5-star program. Enclosed with this newsletter is an MSDS for the substances contained in these kits.

Walk through your facility and make lists of the type of materials your employees may be exposed to. Then use the exemptions above to determine whether you should obtain MSD sheets for each product.

Remember to train your employees annually on the hazards at your facility. Be sure to include in the training: where to find the MSDSs and how to use them and have each attendee sign in as proof that they were trained. All new employees must be trained upon hire. Remember, employees must be able to have access to MSD sheets, do not store them in your locked office if all employees do not have access to it.



Latex Allergies

Latex gloves have proved effective in preventing transmission of many infectious diseases to health care workers. But for some workers, exposures to latex may result in allergic reactions. Reports of such reactions have increased in recent years—especially among health care workers.



What is latex allergy?

Latex allergy is a reaction to certain proteins in latex rubber. The amount of latex exposure needed to produce sensitization or an allergic reaction is unknown. Increasing the exposure to latex proteins increases the risk of developing allergic symptoms. In sensitized persons, symptoms usually begin within minutes of exposure; but they can occur hours later and can be quite varied. Mild reactions to latex involve skin redness, rash, hives, or itching. More severe reactions may involve respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, sneezing, itchy eyes, scratchy throat, and asthma (difficult breathing, coughing spells, and wheezing). Rarely, shock may occur; however, a life-threatening reaction is seldom the first sign of latex allergy.

Who is at risk of developing latex allergy?

Health care workers are at risk of developing latex allergy because they use latex gloves frequently. Workers with less glove use (such as housekeepers, hairdressers, and workers in industries that manufacture latex products) are also at risk.

Is skin contact the only type of latex exposure?

No. Latex proteins become fastened to the lubricant powder used in some gloves. When workers change gloves, the protein/powder particles become airborne and can be inhaled.

How is latex allergy treated?

Detecting symptoms early, reducing exposure to latex, and obtaining medical advice are important to prevent long-term health effects. Once a worker becomes allergic to latex, special precautions are needed to prevent exposures. Certain medications may reduce the allergy symptoms; but complete latex avoidance, though quite difficult, is the most effective approach.

Are there other types of reactions to latex besides latex allergy?

Yes. The most common reaction to latex products is *irritant contact dermatitis*- the development of dry, itchy, irritated areas on the skin, usually the hands. This reaction is caused by irritation from wearing gloves and by exposure to the powders added to them. Irritant contact dermatitis is not a true allergy. *Allergic contact dermatitis* (sometimes called chemical sensitivity dermatitis) results from the chemicals added to latex during harvesting, processing, or manufacturing. These chemicals can cause a skin rash similar to that of poison ivy. Neither irritant contact dermatitis nor chemical sensitivity dermatitis is a true allergy.

How can I protect myself from latex allergy?

Take the following steps to protect yourself from latex exposure and allergy in the workplace:

Use nonlatex gloves for activities that are not likely to involve contact with infectious materials (food preparation, routine housekeeping, general maintenance, etc.).

Appropriate barrier protection is necessary when handling infectious materials. If you choose latex gloves, use powder-free gloves with reduced protein content.

- Such gloves reduce exposures to latex protein and thus reduce the risk of latex allergy.
- So-called hypoallergenic latex gloves do not reduce the risk of latex allergy. However, they may reduce reactions to chemical additives in the latex (allergic contact dermatitis).

Use appropriate work practices to reduce the chance of reactions to latex.

- When wearing latex gloves, do not use oil-based hand creams or lotions (which can cause glove deterioration).
- After removing latex gloves, wash hands with a mild soap and dry thoroughly.
- Practice good housekeeping: frequently clean areas and equipment contaminated with latex-containing dust.

Take advantage of all latex allergy education and training provided by your employer and become familiar with procedures for preventing latex allergy.

Learn to recognize the symptoms of latex allergy: skin rash; hives; flushing; itching; nasal, eye, or sinus symptoms; asthma; and (rarely) shock.

What if I think I have latex allergy?

If you develop symptoms of latex allergy, avoid direct contact with latex gloves and other latex-containing products until you can see a physician experienced in treating latex allergy.

If you have latex allergy, consult your physician regarding the following precautions:

- Avoid contact with latex gloves and products.
- Avoid areas where you might inhale the powder from latex gloves worn by other workers.
- Tell your employer and health care providers (physicians, nurses, dentists, etc.) that you have latex allergy.
- Wear a medical alert bracelet.



(text from DHHS (NIOSH) PUBLICATION No. 98-113, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/98-113.html>)

Need an activity for your next childcare provider meeting?

Try putting together bloodborne pathogen spill kits. Be resourceful, ask local businesses for donations. Include the following items:

safety glasses

aprons

gloves

masks

absorbant material

bags (if you are unable to get the red biohazard bags, just use ziplock bags and use a permanent marker to label them with the word "Biohazard".)

5 gallon pails are great for containers for your new spill kit. Lastly, don't forget to label the outside of your container so employees where know what it is!

Thinking of trying an environmental project but looking for a few extra bucks....

WALMART ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

www.walmartfoundation.org

Each Wal-Mart store has an allocation of money for environmental grants to non-profit organizations and schools to support environmental efforts and education in communities where stores are located. Grants are in the \$2,500 range. More than \$1.5 million was granted nationwide last year. Grant applications, accepted on an on-going basis, are available and are submitted through a local store, but decisions are made in Arkansas. Wal-Mart also gives grants under the categories of community, children and education.

HOME DEPOT

www.homedepot.com

Since 1993, The Home Depot has granted millions of dollars to support a variety of environmentally focused non-profit organizations throughout the communities they serve.

Assistance is provided to nonprofit organizations that direct efforts toward protecting natural systems. The grants program focuses on the following areas:

Forestry and ecology

Green building design

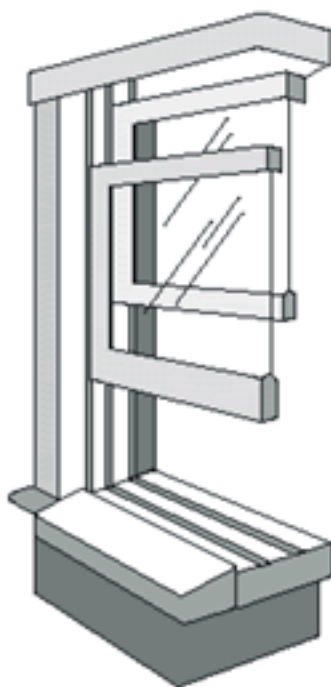
Clean-up and recycling

Lead poisoning prevention

EPA and HUD Announce Landmark Lead Disclosure Settlement; More than 130,000 Families in 47 States will Benefit

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the broadest lead disclosure settlement ever with one of the nation's largest property management firms, the Denver - based Apartment Investment and Management Co. (AIMCO).

Families living in more than 130,000 apartments in 42 states and Washington, D.C., will live in lead - safe units as a result of this landmark settlement. AIMCO allegedly failed to warn its tenants that their homes may contain lead - based paint hazards in violation of the Residential Lead - Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act. Under the settlement, AIMCO has agreed to test and clean up lead - based paint hazards in more than 130,000 apartments nationwide and pay a \$129,580 penalty. The penalty and the number of units being tested and cleaned are the largest ever in a lead disclosure settlement.



Because AIMCO voluntarily disclosed violations of the Residential Lead - Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act, the company was able to significantly reduce its penalty. At the same time, HUD and EPA are ensuring that AIMCO's properties will become free of lead - based paint hazards.

Approximately three - quarters of the nation's housing stock built before 1978 (approximately 64 million dwellings) contains some lead - based paint. Of those, approximately 25 million housing units have lead - based paint hazards such as chipping and peeling paint and lead in dust, according to a recent HUD survey. When properly maintained and managed, lead - based paint poses little risk. However, nearly one million children have blood lead levels above safe limits, mostly due to exposure to lead - based paint hazards.

Community

Bloomington
Elkhart
Evansville
Fort Wayne
Fort Wayne
Indianapolis
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Indianapolis
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Indianapolis
Indianapolis
Indianapolis
Indianapolis
Indianapolis
Indianapolis
Indianapolis
Indianapolis
Merrillville
New Castle
Rockville
South Bend
West Lafayette
West Lafayette
West Lafayette
Zionsville

Housing development

Colonial Crest
Town & Country
North Park
Versailles on the Lake
Canterbury Green
Brookwood Apartments
Chapel Hill
Chapelwood
Cheswick Village
Greenspring Manor
Hunt Club
Lake Castleton
Marten Manor East
Michigan Apartments
Pickwick Place
Somerset Lakes
The Landings
Villa Nova
Westlake Arms
Williamsburg on the Lake
Winchester Village
Wyckford Commons
Chapelle Le Grande
Stonegate Village
Burnett Manor
Georgetown
Beau Jardin
Country Villa
Mayfair Village
Oval Run